



Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Update
Deer Park, Texas
April 20, 2019 0000 – April 21, 2019 1159

Incident Management Objectives:

Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management

Incident Overview:

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 parts per million (ppm) were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

A vessel decontamination plan was approved on March 27, 2019. The plan established procedures for decontamination of large and small vessels. Also, the plan describes how the decontamination team will utilize resources that include barge boats equipped with a hot water pressure washer, support boats for assessment team members, containment boom and absorbent sweep, rags, absorbent pads, cleaning agents, personal protective equipment (PPE), boat operators, and technicians.

On March 31, 2019, EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for ITC fire data.

Executive Overview:

- In preparation to discharge treated incident-related wastewater from Tank 80-34, ITC is securing laboratories to analyze their effluent samples as required in the April 17, 2019 EPA authorization.

Land Operations:

- On April 20-21, 2019, ITC conducted operations at the tank farm:

Tank Status	Tank No.
Complete & Clean – No further action (NFA) needed	80-1, 80-4, 80-9, 80-11, 80-12, 80-13
Complete – NFA possible until demo	80-2, 80-3, 80-5, 80-6, 80-7, 80-15
Cleaning and Degassing	80-8, 80-10, 80-14

Water Operations:

- EPA conducted surface water sampling on April 20, 2019 at 8 sample locations. The surface water samples were collected along Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River and will be analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil & grease. The results from the sampling event will be compared to the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to TCEQ Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS is not available for a chemical. No exceedances have been observed since April 2, 2019.
- The USCG will periodically evaluate the docks at San Jacinto Port using a water/oil interface probe.

- On April 20, 2019, ITC continued material recovery with vacuum trucks behind and within the caisson (water tight retaining structures) at Bostco Docks.
- The Houston Ship Channel is open for normal operations. The USCG continues to conduct roving inspections of vessels at docks between Patricks Bayou and the mouth of Carpenters Bayou for decontamination needs during daylight hours.
- The USCG Captain of the Port continues the controlled open for the Old River. Inbound traffic is only allowed during the daytime and decontamination operations for vessels continue.
- The table shows the proportion of shoreline in each division that meets end points or requires no further treatment according to SCAT.

Division	Percentage of Total Length Approved by UC
A	59.5%
B	9.6%
C	11.6%
D	49.9%
South & East of D	100.0%
Total	49.1%

- As of April 21, 2019:
 - 160,840 feet of boom deployed
 - 144,244 bbl of product/water recovered from water operations
 - 240,767 bbl of product/water recovered from tank farm

Total Vessels as of April 19, 2019				
Work Boats	Barges	Small Capacity Skimming Vessels	Skimmers	Total Vessels
95	101	23	70	289

Community Air Monitoring:

- Several entities including TCEQ, EPA, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from April 20, 2019 at 00:00 to April 21, 2019 at 23:59 at 134 locations in the surrounding communities. Results were reported above the detection limit at one location for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs). EPA will continue to conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) if VOCs continue to be detected.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) on April 20, 2019 and on April 21, 2010. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term AMCVs and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs. These results have been shared with unified command and local officials.

Coordination with State Agencies:

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

EPA Resources:

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	5	2	7
EPA Non-Region 6	0	2	2
START	1	16	17
Other Contractors	0	8	8
Total	6	28	34

Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations

